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27 July 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Gen. Twining's testimony before the Symington Committee,
19 July 1956.

1. General Twining's appearance was for a question-and-answer session following his appearance before the full Armed Services Committee, at which time he had delivered the prepared statement we have in our possession.

2. Gen. Twining was asked to re-state his numerical estimates of Soviet heavy bomber production and strength in operational units for the present and mid-1959. He repeated the figures used in the DCI's previous testimony, and made no mention of the likelihood of any change in these estimates. Senator Symington then asked him for a complete listing of the latest agreed numerical estimates on each type of Soviet aircraft, which Gen. Twining evidently did not have available. Symington then said (p. 2352 of transcript):

"But if there is any change in national intelligence as a result of recent pressures, we would like to know when the changes were in the national intelligence. So let's put it this way: Let us have the figures of national intelligence as of March 1, and then the changed figures on national intelligence subsequent to that, with the justification of national intelligence as to why that was done."

Twining agreed to supply this for the Record, and a blank space was left in the transcript. Mr. Sprague's office informs me that no USAF answer to this request has yet been received for transmittal to the Committee, but I have been promised a look at the answer when it is received.

3. Miscellaneous items of interest —

a. The Soviets told Twining's party that inflight refueling increased the range of their bombers by 30 per cent. Of the two systems they are working on (flexible and rigid), they prefer the flexible.

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b. The BLONLAMP (new jet light bomber) is probably trans-sonic, not supersonic, according to Twining's experts. It appears, however, better than anything in our inventory of light bombers.


c. The Mach 3 wind-tunnel at the Zhukovsky Academy was about 12 inches square.

d. As a result of their observations, Cons. Pitt and Irvine have revised upward their previous assessments of Soviet aeronautical research and development, and aircraft maintenance capabilities.

e. Gen. Twining believes we are a little ahead of the Soviets in ICBM development, but the margin is not great.

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